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Living descendants

of Major General

John Stark

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CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Descendents of General John Stark:

At the last session of the New Hampshire Legislature, a desire was expressed by some patriotic members, to encourage the erection of a suitable Monument to the memory of General John Stark, at his burial place in the City of Manchester. To this end a Resolution was introduced in the senate, referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, reported upon favorably by the Committee, and passed in concurrence by both Houses.

Subsequent to the adjournment of the Legislature, the following communication was received by me:

"STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

Secretary's Office, Concord, Dec. 11th, 1886.

Gen'l George Stark, Nashua, N. H.

Sir:—Under a concurrent resolve passed at the late session of the Legislature, the Governor, with advice of the Council, has designated you as a proper person "to make inquiry into the matter of erecting at an early date a fitting monument or statue in memory of Major General John Stark, at his burial place in the City of Manchester, the expense of carrying out any such plan or plans and how much of said sum or sums would be raised by the descendants of General Stark, and by the City of Manchester, contingent upon the payment of the residue by the State;" and his Excellency requests you to make a report of the result of your inquiry, to the Governor and Council, so that it may be transmitted to the Legislature at the beginning of the next session. I am Sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A. B. THOMPSON, Secretary of State."

In pursuance of the above commission, my inquiries, to this time, have been directed, first, to the situation of the burial place referred to in the legislative resolve, and secondly, to the possible design and cost of such a monument as seems to have been contemplated.

The location of the little cemetery which contains the remains of General Stark, was selected by him for a family burial place, several years before his death and was enclosed in the usual manner by a wooden fence. The site is a commanding plateau, overlooking the Merrimack river, within the boundaries of what was then his home farm. He was buried there, with military honors, May 10th, 1822. Seven years later, on the 16th of August, 1829, being the anniversary of the battle of Bennington, his family erected over the grave a small granite obelisk, suitably inscribed to his memory. This stone is not now in a good state of preservation; relic hunters having, from time to time, carried away such pieces as they could hammer from its corners.

In 1876, the owners of the land, heirs of John Stark, 3rd, a grandson of the General, conveyed this cemetery to the City of Manchester; together with so much of the attaching land as would make a square 350 feet by 250 feet, or about two acres; bounded by certain projected streets, as shown on the city plan, to be known respectively as Lexington, Trenton, Princeton and Bennington streets. The plot conveyed to be known as Monument Square. The City was required to enclose it suitably, and to preserve and protect the premises, with the Monument now there, or that may there be hereafter erected, and to keep and maintain the premises as a Public Ground or Square: to be beautified and adorned from time to time as may seem proper and reasonable. Also to maintain a suitable inclosure around the burial lot upon the premises; or such inclosure may be provided by the friends of those interred therein; the design or plan being first approved by the city.

The deed also contains a proviso that the city may convey the premises to the State of New Hampshire, subject to the same conditions. The conditions of this deed have not been fully complied with by the city, but I am informed by the surviving grantors, that if the purposes to which the Square was dedicated are now carried out, the title in the city will not be brought in question.

The site is in every way suitable, and having already been dedicated to the purpose, no outlay is required for it, except to make the requisite improvements. The attention of the City Government has lately been called to this matter, and in response, an appropriation of $300 has been made, for commencing the promised improvements during the present year. There seems therefore to be no necessity for further investigation as to the suitability or availability of the "burial place," for the location of the proposed monument; unless, as has been suggested by some prominent citizens of Manchester, a more costly monument should be decided upon, to be located on one of the public

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squares, or on the grounds of the new Government Building; the extra cost to be borne by the City, or the State, or the General Government.

My second inquiry has been as to plan and cost of "a fitting Monument or Statue."

It appears to be a very general opinion that an Equestrian Statue, of Bronze, mounted on a suitable Granite Pedestal, would be the most fitting monument for a distinguished General of the war of the Revolution.

I have therefore obtained from reliable and experienced parties, preliminary estimates for an equestrian bronze Statue, of heroic size, (about 12 feet high,) mounted suitably on granite, (making the entire height about 25 feet,) and find that the whole cost will probably be between 15,000 and 20,000 dollars.

The descendants of General Stark may well be proud of the ancestor whose name and memory it is thus proposed to honor and perpetuate. Historians have placed him next to Washington in deeds of wise and patriotic valor that led to the establishment of our nation; all honor has been accorded to him as a man and a soldier; and now, when the State offers us the lead in a movement to erect a suitable and elegant monument to his memory, it should be our pleasure as well as our duty to have a respectable share in this filial and patriotic undertaking.

I am well aware that, of the numerous representatives of the family, few are able to give largely; but it should be the right and privilege of every descendant, however remote, to identify himself or herself with the project, by contributing something, towards its accomplishment. While many may from necessity contribute but little, the few, who are more fortunate in the possession of sufficient means, should take occasion to liberally make up the general average.

I think it would be desirable, if possible, to have the descendants contribute one third of the full amount required to carry out the project, at its estimated cost. I should then suggest that the City of Manchester contribute another third, leaving one third of the cost to be borne by the State.

There are a good many of us. If we pull together, and pull with a will, we can raise five or six thousand dollars for this purpose; and we ought to do it. As an earnest of my sincerity, I will pledge a subscription in my own family, including only myself and my children, of $1,000. If all others will do the same, in proportion to their means, we will at least get the proposed descendants' subscription full.

I desire to have this circular reach every descendant of General Stark, whether in the name, or through marriage with, or descent from the daughters or grand daughters, or later generations

of female descent; but I cannot hope to learn the address of all, unless aided by those to whom I shall first send.

The genealogy, from General Stark downward, or list of living descendants so far as now known to me, is herein written out.—It is imperfect, because I have no traditions or records at hand from which to trace the families of several of the daughters, who married and removed from this vicinity. Neither have I been able to keep well informed as to the children of some of the families that are near by.

It would greatly oblige me to receive from those to whom I now send this circular, any information as to descendants not mentioned herein, that will enable me to make my list more full and complete.

You will find enclosed herewith a subscription slip, on which you can, if so disposed, write your name and address and the amount that you wish to contribute, and then mail the same to me.

An early response is desirable, so that I may be able to seasonably present the matter to the Manchester City Government and secure their action in time for my report to the Governor and Council, before the meeting of the Legislature in June.

You will observe that the subscription paper is conditional; and you will not be called upon for your subscription unless the City and State appropriate, this year, enough to cover the balance of the proposed $15,000 minimum outlay.

GEORGE STARK, Commissioner.

Nashua, N. H., March 1, 1887.

ORIGIN OF THE STARK FAMILY

OF

NEW HAMPSHIRE,

AND A LIST OF

LIVING DESCENDANTS

OF

GENERAL JOHN STARK,

1887.

COMPILED BY GEORGE STARK, OF NASHUA, N. H.

THIS LIST IS NOT FULLY COMPLETE, THE COMPILER HAVING BEEN UNABLE, TO THIS DATE, TO TRACE ALL OF THE DESCENDANTS FROM THE FEMALE BRANCHES, AND OTHERS WHO EARLY REMOVED FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE.

The name of Stark, derived from the German word starr, meaning stiff. strong, rugged, indicates the Teutonic origin of the family.

Tradition accounts for the migration of the Stark name from Germany to Scotland, in 1495; when the duchess of Burgundy, widow of Charles the Bold, sent a large body of German soldiers under General Martin Swart, to join the invasion of England in support of the claim of one of the Pretenders to the throne of Henry VIIth. The invaders were defeated on the plain of Stoke, and those who survived fled to Scotland, and were protected by the Scottish King. Among the German soldiery were men named Stark, who remained in Scotland after this disastrous campaign and are supposed to be the ancestry of the family from which Genl. John Stark descended.

The books of heraldry contain a legend that one of the name saved the life of a king of Scotland, by slaying a wild bull, which attacked his majesty while hunting. For this exploit he was created a baronet.

The earliest progenitor of the New Hampshire family, named in extant history, was Archibald Stark, born at Glasgow, Scotland, in 1697. He was educated at the University in the city of his birth, and at an early age removed with his father and family to Londonderry, Ireland, where he married Eleanor Nichols, the daughter of a Scottish emigrant; and in 1720 they joined the company of Scotch-Irish that came to America and settled the town of Londonderry in New Hampshire.

The sons of Archibald Stark were William, John, Samuel and Archibald. All of them held commissions in the British service during the "seven years" or "French war" of 1754 to 1760, and the second son, John, afterwards became famous as the Patriot General John Stark, of the war of the Revolution, 1775 to 1783.

FAMILY OF GENERAL JOHN STARK.

General John Stark was born at Londonderry, in New Hampshire, August 28th, 1728; married Elizabeth Page, of Dunbarton, N. H., Aug. 20, 1758. They had eleven children; five boys and six girls. One of the girls died in childhood, between two and three years of age. The second and fourth sons, Archibald and Charles, died when young men; and left no issue. All of the others raised families.

CHILDREN OF GENERAL JOHN STARK.

I.	Caleb was born,	Dec. 3, 1758.
II.	Archibald "	May 28, 1761, died Sept. 11, 1791.
III.	John, Jr., "	April 17, 1763.
IV.	Eleanor, "	May 4, 1765, died Aug. 20, 1767.
V.	Eleanor, Jr., "	June 30, 1767; married Babson.
VI.	Sarah, "	June, 11, 1769; married Blodget.
VII.	Elizabeth, "	Aug. 10, 1771; married John Cameron.
VIII.	Mary, "	Sept. 19, 1773; married B. F. Stickney.
IX.	Charles, "	Dec. 2, 1775, lost at sea about 1806.
X.	Benj. Franklin,	born Jan. 16, 1777.
XI.	Sophia, "	Jan. 21, 1782; married Dickey.

LIST OF LIVING DESCENDANTS OF GENERAL JOHN STARK.

1887.

I.

FROM CALEB STARK.

Miss Charlotte Stark,	Dunbarton, N. H.
Charles Morris Stark,	" "
John McNeil Stark,	" "
Charles S. Newell,	Goshen, N. Y.
Lieut. Com. John S. Newell,	U. S. Navy.
William C. Newell,	Dorchester, Mass.
William S. Newell,	" "
Charles Newell,	" "
Lieut. Francis Winslow,	U. S. Navy.
Harriet Winslow.	
Carlisle Winslow.	
Cameron McRay Winslow,	(Master) U. S. Navy.
Sarah Winslow,	Europe.
Arthur Winslow,	Raleigh, N. C.

III.

FROM JOHN STARK, JR.

John S. Moore,	Waltham, Mass.
Hyman Moore,	Quincy, Mass.
Charles Moore,	Waltham, Mass.
John Milton Moore,	Waltham, Mass.

Mrs. Henry B. Brown,	Quincy, Mass.
Mrs. Annie F. Richardson,	Stoneham, Mass.
Mrs. Geo. H. Ferguson,	Lawrence, Mass.
Mrs. John W. Porter,	Lawrence, Mass
Mrs. William Milkins,	South Boston, Mass.
Mrs. Chas. Sumner Jones,	Woburn, Mass.
Mrs. Josephine Howe,	Danvers, Mass.
Mrs. Juliet Ayer,	Waltham, Mass.
Bertha Amelia Moore,	Chicago, Ills.
Ethel O. Moore,	Chicago, Ills.
Mignonette Moore,	Chicago, Ills.

Ellen D. Stark,	Fitchburg, Mass.
Leonard Stark,	Barre Falls, Mass.
Leonard Spaulding Stark,	Barre Falls, Mass.
Fred. Clifton Stark,	Barre Falls, Mass,
Nettie Mary Lackey,	Barre Falls, Mass.
Mrs. Annie Caroline Shattuck,	Fitchburg, Mass.
Henry C. Stark,	Hyde Park, Mass.
Mrs. Ellen D. Lewis,	Hyde Park, Mass.
Marion Elizabeth Shattuck,	Fitchburg, Mass.
Florence Amelia Shattuck,	Fitchburg, Mass.
Fred. Arthur Shattuck,	Fitchburg, Mass.
Arthur Dinsmoor,	Laconia, N. H.
James A. Dinsmoor,	Laconia, N. H.
Lillian Rockwood Dinsmoor,	Laconia, N. H.
George H. Stark.	Laconia, N. H.

John S. Kidder,	Manchester, N. H.
Joseph Kidder,	" "
Mrs. Susan Palmer,	" "
Charles S. Kidder,	" "
Samuel P. Kidder,	" "
Nathan P. Kidder,	" "
Frank Kidder,	" "
Maria F. Kidder,	" "
Sarah J. Kidder,	" "
Annie E. Kidder,	" "
Mary McC. Kidder,	" "
William H. Morrill,	" "
Helen M. Morrill,	" "
George Fisk,	Lisbon, N. H.
Leonard R. Kidder,	New York City.
Selwyn J. Kidder,	Chariton, Iowa.

Willis Kidder,	Nashua, N. H.
Frank V. Reynolds,	Rochester, N. Y.
Grace E. Reynolds,	Rochester, N. Y.
Mrs. Charles Moore,	Waltham, Mass.
Hattie Kidder,	Manchester, N. H.
Florence Kidder,	Manchester, N. H.
Fanny Kidder,	Manchester, N. H.
Ruth Kidder,	Manchester, N. H.
Elizabeth B. Stark,	Manchester, N. H.
Augustus Stark,	Manchester, N. H.
Burke F. Stark,	Manchester, N. H.
George Stark,	Nashua, N. H.
John F. Stark,	Nashua, N. H.
George F. Stark,	Nashua, N. H.
Mrs. Emma G. Towne,	West Newton, Mass.
Edwd. Bancroft Towne,	West Newton, Mass.
George S. Towne,	West Newton, Mass.
Charles J. Gillis,	New York City.
Frederick S. Gillis,	New York City.
Mrs. Mary Marble,	Newtown, Conn.
Frederick P. Marble,	Lowell, Mass.
Mary Catherine Walker,	Lowell, Mass.
Mrs. Harriet Ames,	Wilmington, Mass.
Henry Ames,	" "
Charles G. Ames,	" "
J. Newton Ames,	" "
Mrs. Juliet S. Gowing,	Wakefield, Mass.
Eleanor Gamble,	Manchester, N. H.
Susan A. Gamble,	" "
John Gamble,	" "
Harriet Stark,	Pennacook, N. H.
Charles Stark,	" "
Jerome B. Stark,	Alameda, Cal.
John F. Stark,	Alameda, Cal.
Mrs. Amanda M. Burpee,	Manchester, N. H.

Mrs. Sarah J. Richardson,	Mt. Desert, Me.
Mrs. N. P. Whittemore,	Lowell, Mass.
Lew. Whittemore,	" "
Fred. G. Stark,	Manchester, N. H
Mrs. Samantha Ordway,	" "
Levi B. Stark,	Tangipahoa, La.
Mrs. Mary F. Mayne,	Frenchtown, M. T
Charles Alvan Stark,	Tangipahoa, La.
Frederick Russell Stark,	Manchester, N. H
Susan Augusta Stark,	" "
Maurice Albert Stark,	" "
Kirk Stark,	Clinton, Mass.
Nelson Stark,	Salem, Mass.
Margaret Stark,	" "
Mrs. Louisa B. Robie,	Manchester, N. H.
Solon S. Robie,	Boston, Mass.
Royal H. Robie,	Ravenna, Neb.

V.

FROM MRS. BABSON.

Mrs. J. B. Merrill,	Concord, N. H.
John S. Hoitt,	" "
Thomas L. Hoitt,	" "
Mrs. Charlotte S. Sanborn,	Barnstead, N. H.
Mrs. Henrietta Warland,	" "
Mrs. Harriet Rand,	" "
Mrs. Frances Johnson,	North Berwick, Me.
Mrs. Sarah B. Thompson,	St. Stephens, N. B.

VI.

FROM MRS. BLODGET.

John Ray,	Auburn, N. H.
John W. Ray,	Lake City, Minn.
Samuel Hall,	Manchester, N. H.

VII.

FROM MRS. CAMERON.

Wm. G. Cameron,	Audubon, Iowa.
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Williams,	San Francisco.
John S. Cameron,	Chicago.

VIII.

FROM MRS. STICKNEY.

Mrs. Fannie Cone,	Toledo, Ohio.
Charles Green,	" "

XI.

FROM MRS. DICKEY.

Mrs. Mary Tenney,	Londonderry, N. H.
Mrs. Sarah Graves,	Reading, Mass.
Mrs Charlotte Campbell,	" "